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NEWS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
April 10, 2006

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**SPRINGFIELD MAN SENTENCED TO 35 YEARS
IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR GUN AND DRUG CRIMES**

Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative

Springfield, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that Delbert Eugene Marshall, age 28, last known address 2021 East Laurel, Springfield, Illinois, was sentenced today to serve 420 months in the federal Bureau of Prisons. U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott sentenced Marshall to 360 months plus a consecutive term of an additional 60 months for possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia A. McInerney under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative as a result of a cooperative investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives with the Sangamon County States Attorney's Office and the Springfield Police Department resulted in the charges against Marshall. On November 9, 2005, Marshall entered pleas of guilty to all six of the charges as filed in the indictment on September 8, 2005.

U.S. Attorney Heaton stated, "Today's sentence ensures that Marshall will be imprisoned for at least 30 years, which means he will be approximately 58 years old when he is first eligible for release. I commend this pro-active effort by the investigative agencies and the Sangamon County State's Attorney's Office working together to help make our neighborhoods safer."

During court hearings, and in court documents, Marshall admitted that he distributed cocaine on or about August 12, 2005, in Springfield (count one) and that he distributed crack cocaine on or about August 22, 2005 (count two.) Counts three through six are related to Marshall's distribution of crack cocaine (count three); possession of cocaine and at least five grams of crack cocaine with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school (count four); possession of a firearm, a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun, after being convicted of a felony crime (count five) and possession of the firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime within 1,000 feet of a private secondary school and a public elementary school (count six), all on or about August 25, 2005.

Following today's sentencing hearing, Marshall was remanded to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service.

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